

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker, leaders, and Members of both the people's House and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court.

Bless as well the moral and military leaders of our country, and may those who are the captains of business, industry, and unions learn to work together toward the mutual benefit of all, walking in the ways of righteousness and working for the highest good of our beloved land.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO J.F. KRUSE JEWELERS

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jim Kruse and Melissa Kelley of J.F. Kruse Jewelers in St. Cloud, Minnesota. They

have been named the Minnesota Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Last year, the St. Cloud Area Chamber honored them as the Small Business of the Year.

Jim Kruse opened J.F. Kruse 15 years ago. From humble beginnings, using secondhand jewelry cases, to a newly built facility and a team of 17 people, the father-daughter duo built a dynamic business that has seen steady growth year after year.

Family-run businesses like J.F. Kruse are the backbone of central Minnesota, and I know I speak for everyone when I say congratulations and good luck in competing for the national title.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE NEW REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the contrast between Democratic and Republican priorities in Congress could not be more clear after the first 100 days here.

Instead of passing legislation that would help American families buy a home or put away money to save for their kids' college or save even for a secure retirement, we have seen again and again tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. That is the priority that supersedes the needs of the American family.

Instead of focusing on growing paychecks and improving our infrastructure, a vital need, one that should be a bipartisan effort, we just continue to vote for more tax giveaways to the wealthiest special interests.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time that this Congress work on the priorities of hard-working, middle class Americans, priorities that are simple: Own a home, help your kids prepare for their future, have something set aside for retirement, take care of our crumbling infrastructure, reinvest in our future.

I know we stand ready to work together on these big questions. It is time Congress set aside the needs of the few and focused on what we were sent here to do, and that is take care of the American family.

APPLAUDING THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1105

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 1105, the Death Tax Repeal Act, last week, and to call for its swift consideration and passage in the Senate.

This devastating tax, which requires families to pay as much as 40 percent of the value of an estate they inherit above a certain threshold, has damaged our economy, hurt small businesses,

and forced many families out of a legacy they worked hard to build.

In my district of Georgia, many of those hit hardest by the death tax are our family farms; hard-working Americans who have paid taxes on their property all their lives, only to have it taxed again when they try to pass it on to the next generation. In some cases, children are often forced to sell the land, ending a family business, costing real jobs, and destroying a family legacy. Unfortunately, this is not a rare occurrence.

As a proud cosponsor of this bill, I applaud my colleagues in the House for passage of this legislation to repeal the death tax and urge quick consideration and approval in the Senate.

NATIONAL LEARN TO SWIM MONTH

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, April is the month when pools, beaches, streams, and lakes across the United States open up for the spring and summer months.

As a former collegiate swimmer, I feel compelled to ensure that everyone is safe in the water during the upcoming months.

I am proud to introduce bipartisan H. Res. 205 with another former college swimmer, Representative JIM BRIDENSTINE, on behalf of USA Masters Swimming Association and their president, Nadine Day, to declare April as National Learn to Swim Month.

Last year, 3,335 Americans unintentionally drowned. The number of American adults and children that are unable to swim can be reduced, and we are in a position to speak out and prevent this.

Swimming proficiency is a problem that we can solve together, and with the help of State governments we can highlight this so that we are able to make water activities safe for everyone.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in declaring April as National Learn to Swim Month.

FORT HOOD VICTIMS RECEIVE PURPLE HEARTS AND FULL BENEFITS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 5 years since the 2009 shooting in Fort Hood, Texas. The whole country was shocked by this senseless activity. Finally, earlier this month, the 47 soldiers and surviving family members of this tragic event did receive Purple Heart medals for their sacrifice, and they will be provided with every benefit that this commendation obliges.